



Attorney Docket No. 017399-0202

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gernot VON HAAS
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE MANUFACTURE
OF CHIP BOARDS AND FIBER BOARDS
Appl. No.: 10/047,984
Filing Date: 01/17/2002
Examiner: Monica A. Fontaine
Art Unit: 1732

DECLARATION OF GERNOT VON HAAS

I, Gernot von Haas, a citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany, residing at Im Schußgarten 3, D-69181 Leimen, GERMANY, declare and state that:

1. I graduated from University of Hamburg with a Master of Science in process engineering in the year 1995. I graduated from University of Hamburg with a PhD 1998.

2. Since 1998, I have worked in the research and development department of Dieffenbacher GmbH + Co. KG (*i.e.*, the Assignee of record in the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/047,984) as executive employee.

Since 2005, I am head of the Research and Development department.

3. I am the inventor of the invention that is described in the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/047,984.

4. My special field of technology is process engineering, with particular focus on hot pressing.

5. Based on my 7 years of experience in the above-mentioned technology of hot pressing, I have a good understanding of how a person of ordinary skill in the art would think and what he would do when trying to solve a particular problem.

6. I have reviewed and understand:

(a) the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/047,984;

(b) an Office Action, which pertains to the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/047,984 and which was mailed by the Examiner on February 24, 2005;

(c) U.S. Patent Nos. 3,776,538 ("Beck"), 4,933,125 ("Reiniger"), 5,538,676 ("Bielfeldt-I"), and 5,762,980 ("Bielfeldt-II"), all of which were cited by the Examiner in the

above-mentioned Office Action;

(d) a "Properties of Metal" table in the "Engineer's Edge", which was cited by the Examiner in the above-mentioned Office Action; and

(e) a "Material Selection and Properties" document by Melles Griot, which was cited by the Examiner in the above-mentioned Office Action.

7. In my informed opinion and with regard to the "approximately equal" limitation set forth in claim 1 of the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/047,984, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not consider the thermal expansion coefficient of aluminum (*i.e.*, $24 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$) to be "approximately equal" to the thermal expansion coefficient of steel (*i.e.*, $11 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $17 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$). These dissimilar values are set forth in the "Material Selection and Properties" document by Melles Griot, which was cited by the Examiner in the above-mentioned Office Action. See "Material Selection and Properties" at p. 18.11. For example, that document itself uses different adjectives to describe the coefficient values of those two materials: that of aluminum is described as "high" while that of steel is described as "lower." That document does not say that the two materials have thermal expansion coefficients that are "approximately equal" as required by claim 1, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would not regard those two values as "approximately equal."

8. In conclusion, based on my 7 years of experience in the above-mentioned technology of hot pressing, I am of the opinion that one of ordinary skill in the art would not find claim 1 obvious in light of any of the above-listed references and/or a combination of any one or more of the above-listed references.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and correct, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and correct.

Date: 19.8.2005

Gernot von Haas
Dr. Gernot von Haas